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Dear Sir or Madam:

I wanted to call your attention to a serious situation. Recently Clear Channel Communications has aired morning radio shows encouraging violence against cyclists in Houston, Cleveland and Raleigh, NC (WDCG, September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>). The following statements were made on the show in Raleigh:

- How fun it is to run cyclists off of the roads, and how cyclists don't deserve to be there.
- One woman called in and said her dad hit a cyclist on purpose on his way to church one morning when she was about 12. She said he just hated bikes being on the road.
- The intern said there is an old man that lives in her neighborhood that shoots a pellet gun at a group of 30 or so that ride by their house. She said he tries to hit their tires to make them crash.
- The host, Bob Dumas, joked of riding a motorcycle down said-proposed bike path just to "piss off" bike riders.
- The hosts, Bob and Madison, egged-on the listeners in support of physically hurting cyclists as a way of telling us they don't want us on the road. The ending shot was Bob, the host, talking about carrying a bunch of empty Yoo-Hoo bottles to pelt offending cyclists with. Once again, more calls rained in from people who agreed with him, and said that they would do the same.

By Law, cyclists have full access to roads. Being a member of the cycling community, I find the radio show of great concern and immoral in nature. Encouraging violence on any group is unconscionable. I have had friends that have been struck by cars while cycling, one recently.

Clear Channel's response has been ambiguous. In Cleveland, WMJI issued an apology, donated money to local bike advocacy programs, disciplined two DJs and fired the producer. However, Clear Channel's national director of programming is reportedly a former "shock jock," and some industry analysts believe the chain is pushing a "lowest common denominator" strategy in hotly contested market areas. As you can see, this is not an isolated case and shows that Clear Channel might very well encourage such violence again.

I encourage you to take a close look into this issue. This has become a nationwide problem with Clear Channel and will not go away until some action is taken. I believe the following would be appropriate given the seriousness of the situation:

- a transcript of the show should be handed over to FCC officials for review
- multiple on air public apologies by the station managers and Disc Jockey's
- several hours of public service announcements on cycling safety by Clear Channel
- a substantial contribution to a cycling safety fund by Clear Channel Communications
- a written guarantee by Clear Channel executives that it won't happen again

Thank You for your attention to this issue and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jim Ward

President – Raleigh Area Triathletes